

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on April 20, 2005 in the lobby of the planetarium.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President
Deborah A. Gray - 1st Vice President
Susan LeBow - 2nd Vice President
Bertram E. Seides - Treasurer
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann - Secretary
Michael B. DeLuise - Trustee
Maria Figalora - Trustee
Carl Luecke - Trustee
William Macchione - Trustee
Gretchen Oldrin-Mones- Trustee
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director
Florence Ogg - Staff
Bill Dieck - Staff
Mitch Spivak - Staff
Maryann Zakshevsky - Staff
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

David D'Orazio - Trustee
Daniel Olivieri - Trustee

(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

Good evening, everyone. This is a regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees. I want to thank those guests who are

in attendance for being here. Do we have a list of those who are attending?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Are there any comments or questions from our guests who are in attendance? Nothing, okay. Before we go any further, we have a new Trustee in our midst. This is Maria Figalora. We're not going to put you completely on the spot. We're going to put all of ourselves on the spot. Susan, would you introduce yourself and tell us who you are and then, Maria, if you would tell us who you are and we'll go around the room.

MS. LEBOW:

Susan LeBow. I'm from Huntington, Dix Hills. Do you want to know the Legislator who nominated me?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I want to know whatever it is you want to tell us.

MS. LEBOW:

Legislator Elie Mystal who took the seat for the recently deceased Legislator Maxine Postal.

MS. FUHRMANN:

May she rest in peace.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Here, here.

MS. LEBOW:

That's it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay.

MS. FIGALORA:

Good evening. I'm Marie Figalora. I'm from West Islip. The Legislator who nominated me was Angie Carpenter. It's a pleasure to be here. I look forward to working with everyone.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Welcome to the Board.

MS. FIGALORA:

Thank you.

MS. GRAY:

I'm Deborah Gray. I live in Centerport. I live seven houses away from the Vanderbilt Museum. I'm very interested in the museum's future and continuing the relationship with the community.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

I'm Gretchen Oldrin-Mones. I live in Stony Brook. I'm on the Education and Exhibits Committee. I would like to invite you to come and join us.

MR. SEIDES:

I'm Bert Seides. I'm an architect. I was appointed by a Legislator who was following my development and approached me several times. I'm now on my second term here on the Board. I have been Chair of Buildings and Grounds, and now I am Treasurer to the Board.

MR. LUECKE:

Carl Luecke. I live in Northport. Welcome to the museum.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm Steve Gittelman. I live in West Hills in Huntington. The Legislator who appointed me was Steven Englebright and Allen Binder who was brand new because that was fifteen years ago. The only trustee who has been here longer than I is Carl, who didn't tell you that. He's been here two months longer than I have. That's it. Lance, would you mind –

MR. MALLAMO:

Hi, Maria, I'm Lance Mallamo. I'm the Executive Director here at the museum. I'm also the Suffolk County Historian. You may see me down at Sagtikos Manor sometime. That's another project that I'm helping out with among many others. Welcome.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'm Marjorie Fuhrmann. I'm the Secretary to the Board and Co-Chair of Education and Exhibits after chairing it for a number of years. I'm from

Babylon. I was appointed by Dave Bishop and Angie Carpenter.

MR. DELUISE:

I'm Mike DeLuise. I live in Dix Hills. I was appointed by Allen Binder. I'm the Chair of the Development Committee. I know you have limited time, but think about helping us out on the Development Committee, too.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Hi, I'm Bill Macchione, and I'm late. I was appointed by Paul Tonna. I live in Smithtown. I'm the Chair of Buildings and Grounds.

DR. ROGERS:

Bill Rogers. I was somewhat instrumental in bringing the dinosaur exhibit here. I'm enjoying my stay. I'm waiting to see the exhibit move over to the airplane hangar.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, Susan.

MS. LEBOW:

Can I ask our Secretary to give us a new list of all the Trustees with phone numbers, addresses, etc?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I knew there was another Trustee coming, and I've just been waiting for her information. It's going to go out by the end of the week.

MS. LEBOW:

Thank you. How is it going out?

MS. FUHRMANN:

It depends how you have asked it to go. Some have asked it to go by fax, some have asked by mail and some have asked by e-mail. Whatever you have asked for, you're going to get.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. May we have a motion to approve the minutes?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that we accept the minutes of March 16, 2005.

MR. DELUISE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **The minutes pass unanimously. (Vote: 11/0/0/4 Not Present: Dr. Pecorale. Absent: Mr. D'Orazio & Mr. Olivieri. One vacant position.)**

Todd Shapiro is not here, so we'll skip down a ways. What I would like to do is to get some of the agenda under our belts here. Development Committee, Michael.

MR. DELUISE:

We had a Development Committee meeting on April 7, and I think we're heading in the right direction. We had talked at the last meeting about setting up small events at the mansion with some invited guests to use that for development purposes. I would ask you to think about who you would like to include in that. I think it would be very important to have a Trustee, whether it's an elected official or corporate person, and if we can start showing off the facility to people who we know either are supporting us or could help support us a little bit more. I think that would be very beneficial to us. We would work with Lance and the staff to put those on. It could be just sandwiches or something at the mansion, where we can actually sit with people and talk about the mission of the Vanderbilt. I think that would be very good.

We also went over all of our events. Lance, maybe you could just give us a run-down after I'm finished of what events we have planned in the next few months. I think we're pretty much on schedule with that. We have some good things coming. I would ask the Trustees and any of the guests if they can please participate in as many of these as you can. I think they will be enjoyable and it would show your support for the museum.

We also talked about establishing and putting together our "Friends of the Museum." I think we're heading together with that and some of the raffles and possibilities that – I don't know if we need an okay on that, but, Lance, if we do, just let us know.

The only thing I would ask is development for a Trustee, I believe, is a very important part of our responsibility. I know each have limited resources, but

we do know people outside, corporations outside and again our elected officials who need to understand what we're doing here. Spreading the good word is very important for us. Basically, that's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments? Deborah?

MS. GRAY:

In light of Michael's request that we all participate or try to support some of these programs, can we get the list of when they are?

MR. DELUISE:

That's what I think Lance is going to –

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, we handed a list out last month. I can get you a new list. The ones that are upcoming relatively soon –

MR. DELUISE:

Maybe you can include the sponsorship brochure, too.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, we have redone our sponsorship brochure. Previously, we have always targeted it around our major fundraiser each year. This year we have made it generic so that we can use the same brochure not only this year but if we print 10,000 copies, we can use it for a few years. The opportunities and benefits are kind of the same and will just be applied to events each year. That should be coming any day.

We have a number of larger events that are going to take place this summer. On June 18, we're going to have an event, "Dancing through the Decades," which will be held in our party tent and will be an evening of music from all different decades, from the 1920's right through 2000. On July 29, we'll have our "Night in El Morocco," which is a recreation of the Vanderbilt's favorite nightclub in Manhattan. That will be our major fundraiser. Then we're going to have as yet unnamed, Mike, unless we have come up with a name. I know David was working on that as well. For lack of another word, it's going to be a young executive's ball.

MR. DELUISE:

Can I talk on that one for a second?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

MR. DELUISE:

First of all, maybe you can also – can you order tickets now for any of these or not?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, absolutely.

MR. DELUISE:

So if there is something you want to do, we can get tickets right away. One of the ideas we had for the young executive's event, and maybe we could discuss it here for a minute, is the idea of using the facility as a wedding but almost a mock wedding for, like, a superstar mock wedding to bring in young people. It would be invitation only. We would go through lists, but these would be people that we wanted to get excited about the Vanderbilt and to use that list to maybe nurture our "Friends of the Vanderbilt." I think it would be a fun thing, almost like whether it's a rock star or a movie star wedding and we put together something that I think we could get some publicity on and to draw people who might not just come to an evening at a museum, and then use that as a way to enhance their image of the place. I don't know if anybody thinks that's a crazy idea or not, but we started to talk about that.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

I think reality shows are very popular with that age group. That sounds along the same genre.

MR. MALLAMO:

I like crazy.

MS. GRAY:

I think it will all depend on who the person is that you can get for the main event.

MR. DELUISE:

For instance, if – and I don't want to mention any names – but if through Todd Shapiro we could get a rock star or an actor or an actress and you and

your guest are invited to a wedding at the Vanderbilt Museum and make it into a fun public relations event. I think we can get some sponsorships for that, too.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sounds great. We get wedding presents.

MR. DELUISE:

The wedding presents could be gifts to the museum.

MR. MALLAMO:

Actually, we could ask for silver, china –

DR. GITTELMAN:

Maybe we could do Consuelo's wedding or something like that.

MR. DELUISE:

And then we could do a funeral here one time.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Around Halloween.

MS. LEBOW:

Is this person in some way going to be related to the Vanderbilt's by some connection?

DR. GITTELMAN:

If we could find people related to the Vanderbilt's who would speak with us, we would be glad to have them get married here.

MS. LEBOW:

No, I'm saying as part of this whole fiction that we're creating –

MR. MALLAMO:

Actually, one of our guides has approached Gloria Vanderbilt's publicist to have her participate in a book signing here of her book. They are interested. They have asked us for the information and some dates that we have available, so we may not have her here for the wedding, but maybe we can develop another event or have her participate in some way.

MR. DELUISE:

And I would assume that if the Vanderbilt's were living here right now, this might be a place that a rock star or movie star or famous author would get married and maybe as part of the family.

MS. LEBOW:

Or a friend of the family.

MR. DELUISE:

It could be a friend. We would definitely include with our volunteers the Vanderbilt's presence through the whole event.

MS. GRAY:

But you don't have in mind a person at this point?

MR. DELUISE:

We want to find somebody who would go along with it, and we wanted to make sure that everybody agreed that this was something that we would like to do.

MS. LEBOW:

Like Billy Joel.

MR. DELUISE:

Right.

MS. GRAY:

Or Britney Spears, she seems to get married a lot.

MR. MALLAMO:

We have some ideas. We hesitate to use names tonight.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It sounds very creative.

MS. LEBOW:

Where will the wedding take place, outdoors?

MR. MALLAMO:

Probably in the tent.

MS. LEBOW:

Where will the “Night in El Morocco” take place?

MR. MALLAMO:

It’s also going to be in the tent. We will probably be using both the courtyard and the tent for all of these events.

MR. SEIDES:

In regard to the book signing, perhaps there are some other authors who have written about the Gold Coast, and we know a few.

MR. MALLAMO:

Monica Randall, sure.

MR. SEIDES:

It could be a larger event.

MR. MALLAMO:

Sure.

MR. SEIDES:

They do draw.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I’m going to tack on to your report. David and I met, and we have a draft – if we could just pass these out. These are questionnaires that we’re going to put up on our web site. It’s a web-based questionnaire. We’d like to try to direct traffic and visitors to the questionnaire, both for the purpose of getting an audience measure and also for finding their preferences for other events and activities. The questionnaire will be on the web, so they will have to have a computer to access it. We will try to promote people either giving us their e-mail addresses so that we can e-mail it to them or they can go to the site and click on a link. We will make the link available to you as quickly as we can.

There are reasons why there are a few things missing in the questionnaire. One of them is that one of the questions actually will have photographs of various locations around the museum. We’re asking them where they are going. For instance, question six asks them, “Which of the museum exhibits

did you see in your last visit?" Please check all that apply. If you say the mummy library or the mansion tour, people may not know what you're speaking of, but if you give them pictures, it's easier for them to recognize. We're going to try to have photos in the questionnaire.

Other than that, the questionnaire is programmed and ready to fly. The idea is to get their opinions of the visit, get their opinions of perspective programs, but also to get them involved in being part of a web community where perhaps we can e-mail them notifications of events that occur and create a dialog using not necessarily our web site but certain tools that are now much easier to use than they were just a few years ago. I think it's time that we moved in that direction.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire, you cannot tell, for example, how it operates when it skips or, for example, that some of the questions like question five is randomly rotated, but on paper it goes in a certain order. In the computer, it can get randomly rotated so that no two points influence the other because of their positioning. It should be state-of-the-art. It will look like it's Vanderbilt. It will be a click-through at the web site. We just have to get the technological connection done. We have already discussed that, and we'll move it along. Then there are other steps after this. Do you have any questions about anything in the questionnaire that you might have noticed? I realize you've only had it for about two minutes, but you can by all means call me or e-mail me. Just don't mail your letter because by the time you do, this will be up. But I will e-mail you or contact everybody I can to make sure that you have the link before we make it available to the public. You will be able to go to the questionnaire and see what you think, and then you can call me. Yes, Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

Steve, after you have gotten this on the site, how hard or easy will it be to change questions?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It will be a piece of cake.

MS. GRAY:

So that if we see that certain questions aren't getting the response we want or aren't effective, can we then at that point can make changes?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We will be able to get continuous tabulations of answers. We will be able to see what questions are being refused. We will be able to see how many people go to the site and don't finish. We can even put cross tabs up there so that you could tabulate one question against another and do different age groups. They could respond differently. We can find out who is coming and who is not. The burden of this falls, unfortunately, on staff because they are the ones who have to promote the concept of getting people to do it. Lance has a number of ideas on how he is going to get people to either give us their e-mail address so we can e-mail them a link or get them to go to the site. Lance, do you want to mention some of those ideas and what you plan to do?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we have an information booth here in the lobby. First, we're going to put a couple of computers right over here in the lobby for people to use on site. Then we'll have it with the information booth where they will be encouraged to participate. We may have our greeters approach people in the galleries, inform them of this and how they can participate in this or we'll take their address and we will contact them with a direct link.

DR. GITTELMAN:

And it will be added to all members. From the standpoint of, for example, if we were able to get one-third of our members, and we have a very small membership, about 500 --

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's about 500 people, so say we got 166 of them. When it's time for renewal, we will be able to use that same e-mail address to send them a notice of renewal. That will save us the effort of sending out posted envelopes for those who respond. For those who don't respond, we will be able to send them out a second one. The cost of sending out these e-mails will be very, very small.

Eventually we would hope to have a large community of people that have either opted in through the questionnaire or opted in who will say, "By all means, send me notices of future events." We will have a community of people that have an affinity for us. We're going to be able to keep them

informed about what's going on at the museum and in essence create an electronic newsletter. It's a whole program of steps that we're going to hopefully make, but at the base of it is getting people to say, "Sure, here's my e-mail address." Of course, we'll have all of yours. You will be subjected to the torture, just like everyone else. You will be able to see what we're doing. One of the very nice things about it is if it were to really work, we can segment to people that we have. For example, there is no point in sending something that costs a lot to somebody who can't afford it, a request, for example. But you can target mail. If someone says they are interested in automobiles, they would be the people that we would send notice of a car show coming up. Or, for example, if someone came and registered during a car show, we would automatically send them notices of future car events, even a different event than the one they attended. We can use e-mail as a way of promoting the museum as we build it.

I spent a lot of time over the last four weeks researching this particular area, and I have found that museums all around the country are starting to do this. Actually, we're not behind by any stretch of the imagination, but there are others who are much further ahead. Certainly institutions that have regular events have opted into this in a very strong way, especially those who have concerts. They will send out an e-mail to people who have attended their concerts, people will purchase the tickets on the basis of that e-mail, they will pre-sell the tickets like that, get an answer within two days, and then the effort is reduced. For example, if we had a list of 500 people, it's possible that on an e-mail you could get 25 to 50 of them to agree to come to an event. That would be a start for a major fund raising event. I have spoken enough. It's a subject that I could speak for a long time. Are there any questions? I just want to see us get into it, so this is the first step. Please call me with any questions, if you have them.

That would be the end of Development Committee. Let's do Education and Exhibits.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Before the report, Florence is here to present the enameled plates to be accessioned. Last month each board member received a packet of information regarding these.

MS. OGG:

These are a special collection. When I first came here, I found several of

them in the collection. With all the Vanderbilt Cup celebrations, we have been able to use these for PR and whatever. These were attached to cars. It's similar to the Easy Pass. We have five in our collection that I'd like to accession. I have wrapped them so you don't have to wear white gloves. There is one on each side. Some of them are dated. This is a very important part of the parkway memorabilia. We have people who just collect these. They are important.

I included in the packet that was given out last month information on these particular plates, plus we did some research a couple of years ago and found that one of them belonged to E.F. Hutton. We received that in quite a strange way. Someone read an article about the Vanderbilt Cup races and parkway, and they found they didn't know what they had and brought them in. We looked through our archives, and we found out that one of them belonged to E.F. Hutton. This is the history of the parkway, and it's the beginning of what we now use as Easy Pass. I think they're very important to include in our collection. I don't know if everybody has this packet that I handed out. I gave them to you last month, but it would be a very interesting thing to look through.

Also, if you want more information, many of you know Al Velocci. He has written a book on the tollhouses. In 2001 he wrote an article for the *Forum*, and it's very in-depth on these plates. If anybody wants a copy, I will be glad to send it to you. If there are any questions, I will be glad to answer them. I know monetarily they are worth a lot, but historically they are even more important.

DR. GITTELMAN:

May I have a motion to accession?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Motion.

MS. LEBOW:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have a motion to accession those five items. Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **They are unanimously approved. (Vote: 11/0/0/4 Not Present: Dr. Pecorale. Absent: Mr. D'Orazio & Mr.**

Olivieri. One vacant position.) Thank you.

MS. OGG:

Thank you. If anyone would like that copy of the article, you can call me. Give me a call, and I'll send it to you.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

Do you want me to continue with the report?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes. Florence, are you going to hang around?

MS. OGG:

For what?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We're going to be talking about you.

MS. OGG:

Okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Go ahead.

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

The Education and Exhibits Committee met for two hours on April 14 and the following people were in attendance: Lorraine, Stephanie, Beth, Phil, Lance, Marjorie and myself.

We're working on a number of big projects, and because the mission of this committee is so broad, we discussed the idea of forming some sub-committees in the hopes of using our time and resources more efficiently and effectively.

The first sub-committee meeting will be on the 13th of May at 3 p.m. Its purpose is to plan the new education brochure, which must be completed by July. Because of this July deadline, these programs need to be written and discussed now and existing programs need to be evaluated. The existing programs offered by the Education Department are just phenomenal. I have

personally seen six of them, and I can't say enough good things about the educators and the programs that they are delivering to the students. Recently I saw the moth and butterfly program. I'm still marveling a week later over some of the things that happened during this two-hour program.

There were four groups of students that were formed in the parking lot. Just by chance, I happened to attach to an un-graded special needs class where the children ranged in age from five to fourteen years old. Not only did the educator, whose name was Dawn, keep the attention of these students, but she somehow managed to get a student who had a fear of insects to dress up as a butterfly. I don't know how she did it, and I was there, but she successfully delivered a highly informative educational program that reached everyone in the group from the five year old to the one person who appeared over 70, who was an aide.

I suspect the success of the program, like others, is partially due to the well-crafted program and the skill of the educators and the colorful and entertaining props. If any other Trustees have the time or the opportunity to take advantage of our educational programs, I think you will be very impressed and proud. I think that the educators will be happy to see you there. If you do come in the morning, you'll see that it's the busiest time of year right now for the educational staff. It's the height of the season for school visits. I have actually been here to see how carefully the staff has to time things, moving groups of students through from room to room, building to building. It really has to be well choreographed.

Nevertheless, the educators are quite enthusiastic about reaching even more students by writing and adding new programs. Lorraine is considering adding four new planetarium programs. One of these would be a new Earth Science Regents Review Planetarium Program for high school students. Beth talked about adding a program focusing on South America, which, as we know, was a place in which Mr. Vanderbilt had a personal interest. This kind of program works into the emphasis in New York Education Curriculum for the Americas and its History.

Now that we are a NOAA weather station, Lorraine wants to write and offer a new program tied into the NOAA weather station.

One potential problem caused by adding new programs would be that the classroom space is limited. The educators are using the cottage now, and

they are making that work, but it's not ideal, and more space is needed.

Another way our committee thinks we can reach even more students and expand the programs that are already in place is through an outreach program. There is enthusiasm for a traveling museum or an outreach program.

As the committee discussed the need for more outreach programs, the following things came to light. One, there is a need for more equipment for the educators. Power-point presentations require LCD projectors and laptops. Two, there is a need for better, faster internet service, which I think is being worked on. This is needed for everyday museum needs, as well as for educational programs. Three, there is a need for money through grants or some other source to fund transportation and/or admission for students from economically challenged districts. Four, for an outreach program to be successful, there is a need for collection items to be acquired. Five, there are only six educators, so more educators would be needed to expand the education programs by providing outreach in this way.

Another change discussed with enthusiasm was an idea thought up by Steve and Lance regarding providing a packet of lesson plans for the classroom teacher to use before bringing students to a program here at the Vanderbilt and follow-up plans for re-enforcement and/or enrichment after attending the program. This useful packet would be made available to the school for an additional fee.

Staff already provides pre and post visit materials, but this would be more extensive and include quizzes and other follow-up activities. All of these things would need to be established so they could be described in our new brochure.

The March numbers, even though the Goto projector was broken causing the cancellation of four days of planetarium shows, the numbers for March were fairly good. Beth feels the numbers were down some because local school districts are responding to their budget crises. She also feels that we are feeling some effect from the situation in the Roselyn School District and other school districts. The numbers have been given to the stenographer to attach to the minutes.

We have a new exhibit. It's going to be in the planetarium. We don't have it

yet, but it's going to go up some time after April 25.

I mentioned last month that we're one of the few institutions in New York to receive display images from the Hubble telescopes. I have some copies of them. We received the M51, which I will pass around. The one that was a surprise last month is now identified as the M16. These two display images along with supporting materials have arrived from the Space Telescope Science Institute. They're pretty spectacular and will make quite an exhibit once they're mounted and put on display in the planetarium lobby. This is going to start out as a media event in honor of the 15th anniversary of the Hubble telescope and what will become a permanent exhibit.

Recently, thanks to Stephanie, the Vanderbilt was associated with a new creative endeavor called "The First Annual Strictly Students Film Festival." This was opened to students making independent films in their schools. Student participants will be honored pretty soon by being invited to the Suffolk County Legislature where they will be awarded certificates. Stephanie has already been recognized for her involvement and has received the Certificate of Merit, which I will pass around.

I'm also passing around this booklet because among other things, you'll see that due to Stephanie's efforts, the Vanderbilt is mentioned in three or four different places as a sponsor and in an ad. You'll see that on the first, second and last page of this.

The whole creative film experience sounded fascinating and generated some related committee discussion about how nice it would be to have some sort of summer movie program here for young people, possibly outdoors.

While I'm passing things around that are due to Stephanie's efforts, here is something else that she has been working on. This is writing summaries of the major phyla for the marine specimens. They're easy to read and they're full of fun facts. They are going to be displayed in the specimen cases in the invertebrate room.

That's the end of my report, but the next general Education and Exhibits meeting is on May 16 at 3 p.m. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you for that report. Are there any questions? I have a few

comments. The comments are not mine. The comments are from the American Association of Museums Reaccreditation Report. I would like to read them into the record. "The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum's collections are solely owned by Suffolk County and its role as proprietor of the property. Florence Ogg, the Director of the historic house, maintains the historical collections, the changing exhibitions, and the residence permanent exhibits, as well as the archive collections. Stephanie Gress, Curator of Natural Science, maintains the natural historic collections and exhibitions. The collections are distributed between the residence and its wings and the Hall of Fishes."

"In recent years the collection staff has been researching collections, improving storage, creating new temporary exhibits pursuant to the comprehensive collections management policy adopted in 1995. Policies are well prepared and properly applied to the use and care of the collections. A computerized database utilizing Past Perfect software is utilized and is appropriate for the collections. All collections are cataloged, with the exception of a few recent accessions and all information on the artifacts appears to be readily accessible."

"The historical collections are cared for very well. In recent years staff has made steady progress in creating storage areas that are clean and well organized and climate controlled. There is little room for expansion, but current conditions are nearly exemplary, even in rooms that have not been completely renovated. The museum has an ongoing conservation program for those artifacts most in need in all areas of the collections."

"There is always opportunity to do more, but a steady progress is being made. Some of the specimens in alcohol need topping off in their containers, which may be a constant project given the old style containers that were originally used." It's very interesting that the AAM chooses to make a slight criticism that the alcohol is evaporating from the containers but extols our virtues because we adhere to a museum of a museum concept. If we are to adhere to that concept, we're going to keep the old jars. If we keep the old jars, they're going to leak alcohol. On the one hand, they like what we do. On the other hand, they observe that it has its flaws, but that's because we're dealing with old technology.

"One exhibit area in the habitat wing of the residence is the sole remaining room that has not been renovated as needed, nor have the specimens

received necessary attention, but the museum has funding for the whole project and it certainly makes sense to do conservation after the exhibit room has been rehabbed.”

“The rest of the museum facility serves to emphasize the accomplishment of the museum in recent years. Collection care remains an issue in some areas of the natural history collections, many of the alcohol specimens –“ okay, fine.

“The archival collection is enormously valuable and appears to be both well conserved and documented.” Thank you, Florence. “This reference resource is potentially valuable for basic research.” I will tell you, it is enormously valuable for basic research. They have no idea how far you can go with it. “The complementary oral history records are of equal value and potential. The planetarium is an excellent resource but is not a research tool. The public programming value, however, is limitless.”

“The exhibitions are clearly focused on the life and times theme of the institution. The public can be saturated with Willie K. and his adventures if they embrace the opportunity. The staff visualizes the experience as a museum of a museum. This is a rather accurate portrayal of the exhibits and public programs. The staff is keenly aware of the necessity to maintain the historical context when portraying the life of Willie K. They do very nicely in their efforts to provide basic instruction in natural history, astronomy, art and living history while providing an educational and entertainment experience. They blend the education and entertainment aspects quite well.”

The education staff deserves enormous kudos and they get it in this report to the nines. This is the most glowing report we could have written for ourselves if we had tried. It’s remarkable. Sure, they point out some things that we might do better, but they say, “The planetarium does the best job in providing a changing environment for visitors’ satisfaction. The Living History Programs also are a terrific means for presenting programmatic change. The dinosaur exhibit is a stretch for the museum with respect to the stated mission. However, in the broadest context, this is the kind of departure that Willie K. probably would have embraced himself. The dinosaur exhibit is popular and should do considerably more when it is relocated to its new quarters.”

“The majority of the exhibits are worn and dated.” Well, if you’re going to

preserve a museum within a museum, and if the museum is opened essentially from 1937 to the public, you're dealing with 70-year old artifacts and exhibits, and they might start to look worn and dated. "Especially the natural history collections, which are all originals, which appear to be in need of being refreshed, refurbished and re-labeled. The one exception is the mansion, which must retain the historic look and feel. The mansion experience seems to be in need of fresher labeling and lighting." I wouldn't label a thing. I think we might change lighting, but we'd have to study it very carefully. They make helpful suggestions.

I know I'm reading a lot and the Trustees have read this, but I want this available to staff. There is a problem with this document. We cannot release it as it stands because we have to redact the names of the Visiting Site Committee. The cover letter from the AAM requests that we not divulge who it was that visited the institution. We haven't done that, and I want this to be available, so here it comes.

"The programming is well defined and consistent." Again, programming. This is your committee, Gretchen and Marge. These are our educators, and they deserve the credit. These are our exhibits. Programming is everything. "The programming is well defined and consistent. The staff recognizes that it is acceptable to be educated and entertained. The public programming is modern in approach and well planned." I don't think you can ask for better. "Willie K. is in every passage. Visitors are challenged and stimulated. All age groups are served. As a diverse museum, there are many academic offerings ranging from natural science to history, to music and art. The staff is very aware of the State education standards and the programs complement the public school curriculum. The museum's summer programs continue the learning experience. The Living History Tours are very popular. Of course, the Vanderbilt Egyptian mummy is and always will be a big draw."

"The public programming truly is a team effort. Special events and regular programming are developed in conjunction with the exhibits and are timely. The programs are quite diverse and very well attended. The staff has made special efforts to accommodate a diverse audience. There are programs for the gifted, disabled, and impaired. The staff has made progress in ADA compliance. The museum has developed strong museum partner collaborations with the local communities, societies and clubs. The calendar is ambitious." What else would you expect these people to say? It's amazing. They just go on for ten pages single-spaced.

Florence, I'm addressing you. Lance, I'm addressing you. Members of the Board, I'm addressing you, symbolic of the rest of the staff because they are not here, Stephanie, of course, everybody. To get accolades like this from the governing body in the United States, perhaps one of the world's highest bodies in museum technology -- as you well know, having been President of the Long Island Museum Association, the AAM is big stuff. These guys were tough, thorough reviewers. We had to go through the review twice for all intents and purposes. They were rigorous. They are very bright and hard-hitting. This is a remarkable report card. I know that professionally you have waited, and I'm really looking at you, but I'm looking at everybody behind you. I think there are 104 employees, so it would include everybody from the guards, the 145 volunteers, everybody, every member of the board. This is a remarkable accomplishment.

All I have read to you is about the programming. There are things that they say about us as a Board, and there are things that they say about our relationship with government and our relationship with staff. There are key words in this report that I looked for. By the time I got to them, I was swamped. The truth is I was looking for what they would say about the relationship between the Board and the Director. The AAM -- the two people who were our reviewers were both museum directors. They were very interested in how we work in terms of governance with our Director. Their statements about our relationship are so remarkably positive that I guess you'll have to read it. It's worth the read.

They do say one thing, and I'm going to go a little bit off education, since I'm on a roll. They say on the issue of our last accreditation, for Maria, especially since you are new tonight, but for those of you who don't know, it says, "At the time of the museum's last accreditation in 1996, the Visiting Committee Report mentioned that the AAM had deferred accreditation repeatedly because of management transition." Excuse me, please?

MS. FUHRMANN:

What a nice euphemism.

(Dr. Pecorale entered the meeting at 8:05 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

That was a very nice euphemism, yes. What should be added here is that the

museum was struggling to maintain and preserve its collections and facilities, and there was some contention with the AAM. We sued them. There was sharp contention. When they came here and failed us during the early 1980's, the response was, "What next?" "Just sue them." So they sent back a Revisiting Committee, and that's how we got our first reaccreditation. The AAM just didn't want to fight. We failed the second visit, but they gave it to us anyway. For this museum to bring them back in 1996 was a scary thing. No Director, no President wanted to take them on, because who knew what kind of a chip they would bring on their shoulders. When we got a first reaccreditation in 1996, a five-year reaccreditation, it was cause for celebration. Now we have received a ten-year extension, which is the longest that they award. They can't give us a better message. What they have essentially said is that the one thing that was a problem for almost an eternity at this institution was that the governance -- and here about governance they say, "The governance structure clearly and effectively advances the museum's mission. The museum and Trustees unmistakably understand their roles and responsibilities and have an understanding of and appreciation for the future of the organization." Trustees met with these people. Either you were pretty good at giving them some message, or they were pretty good at understanding the truth. They interpreted what you said. They go from museum to museum to museum, and everybody is trying to tell them the same thing. Everybody wants them to say that. They said it about us. That's strong medicine.

The one thing that I found most significant is they said that the museum leadership is solid and earns high grades. I think what transcended that for me was that they supported our overall financial plan, the way in which we're spending our endowment money and the long-range plan in which we intend to use the waterfront to get us off that dependency. They stated clearly -- and, Lance, I don't know if you can find that for me -- they stated clearly that we are using the endowment as bridge money and that the waterfront will be what takes us into the future. They agreed with that vision. They agreed with the way we are managing our funds. That is very important for them to even recognize our strategy. For them to recognize the plan is important.

Okay, I'll read the whole paragraph. "In the basic view of the museum's financial picture, good planning and thrifty management has enabled the museum to operate more efficiently in the past couple of years than previously. The Director's comprehensive staff reorganization in 2003 was a much-needed boost to some programs that were becoming somnolent. Not

only have programs become more dynamic, but also the overall effect has been in to raise most salaries for current staff and still decrease the total payroll. The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum has some excess earnings from past years in its endowment, which are being spent now to enable the institution to make its programs more attractive.” That’s the part I’m talking about. We are spending our endowment to make the programs and improvements more attractive.

“Eventually the endowment excess funds may be exhausted.” They’re saying it. We may exhaust the excess funds. “But if the planned physical and program improvements all succeed, then earned income at the museum should rise to fill the void.” In other words, they’re saying, we’re taking a gamble. We’re spending our endowment income, our endowment capital gains in order to bring the museum to the point where the waterfront is on the table. At that time they’re saying, “If the physical and program improvements all succeed, then earned income at the museum should rise to fill the void. As mentioned previously, the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum has accomplished a great deal in obtaining considerable support from County government to obtain upgrading its large physical plan and overall programs that should be completed in the next few years.”

I know I’ve gone on and on, and I apologize for going on and on, but it’s worth it. It’s only once in five years, and now you have to wait until 2013 to listen to someone go on and on and on about what the reaccreditation report says. Actually it won’t be 2013; it will be 2015, since we will start the reaccreditation process in 2013. For those of you who will be here ten years from now, you’ll have to listen to this again, but you should celebrate now because this has taken a long time. This is the first time we have ever gotten ten years. This is the first unconditional reaccreditation this institution has ever received. It was not due to the turnover of Directors that we waited 16 years the first time. It was due to the fact that nobody wanted to stare down the barrel of a gun. When we did it, we got through it, and now we finally finished the job. It’s because of our education programs, staff, our Director, our Board, our volunteers. I don’t know who I’m leaving out, our stenographer, the Legislature, the County Executive, whoever it is, I’m grateful. This has been a marvelous achievement. I just thank you all.

MS. FUHRMANN:

And our contributors.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, and our contributors, of course. Thank you.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You're welcome.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are there any questions or comments? This is the time to put them on the table. I've put this in the Education and Exhibits Committee because they, in my opinion, to some extent are one of the great hearts of the institution. Certainly the buildings and capital projects are the other one. Yes, Susan.

MS. LEBOW:

Are you going to send a copy of the redacted version to the Legislators?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I am intending to send it to the Legislators. I have been invited to come down and speak to the Legislators at their meeting on the 17th. I'm looking forward very much to doing that. Anybody who would like to join me, I'd love to have you there.

MS. FUHRMANN:

When is it?

DR. GITTELMAN:

The 17th. I'm sorry; I don't know the time.

MS. PASTORE:

It starts at 9:30 in the morning in Riverhead.

MR. MALLAMO:

Of course, it would be Riverhead. It's not the night meeting, though.

MS. PASTORE:

No, it's not the night meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We're going to try to get in the public programming section. It's a big moment, and we're going to take the opportunity. Other questions?

MR. SEIDES:

I'd just like to say that it was a terrific exercise that I experienced. I think that everyone who was involved in preparing the institution here for this review also enjoyed, so to speak, buffing up the edges and putting on a terrific presentation, which we do on a regular basis and which they perceived. I thought it was terrific, and I want to thank Lance. Lance went and spent a lot of time with these two gentlemen. Lance knows how to make the right presentation. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It goes beyond that. You measure the documents that you submit for this by the foot. It's not just a file. It's not a folder. It's not a letter. It's a two-year exhaustive process. I remember when Alison did it. That was when we got it. I remember 150 conversations with Alison about each step of the way. She did a fine job. I have to be honest with you. Lance really deserves the credit. That's it. I didn't do this. I don't know anybody who did it. Perhaps staff support to him.

MR. MALLAMO:

Absolutely, they all wrote their own component. I just spell checked it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

He spell checked it, but he's lying. I know that there were sections of this that had to be produced within days of them arriving because we learned within days of them arriving that the sections needed to be produced. It was just that simple. Lance turned on a dime and knocked them out. If it's staff that produced the original source documents, it's Lance who put together the final presentation. I did not put together the presentation. It's as simple as that.

MR. SEIDES:

Which included several hundred photographs.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If Lance were to bring it here, it's got to be the size of a file cabinet drawer, if not more. I remember that Alison's was about two file cabinet drawers. In fact, she brought it to one meeting. She wanted to show us. I didn't blame her because it was two file cabinet drawers worth of material prepared for the AAM review. It's a two-year ordeal. You don't start then. You start two

years before then trying to figure out what the last review said that was a deficiency. Well, the deficiencies we have here, there are some, and we're going to correct them. It's Lance, it's staff, and then maybe it's us in the background. We help create a climate that staff and Lance were able to prosper in. But it's Lance and his staff that deserve the credit. We have to thank them in some measurable way. We have to get together with them. Three of them, four of them here frankly isn't enough. We're going to have a get-together at some time. I'd like you all to join us probably two or three weeks from now. Perhaps we can somehow convey our gratitude to them. Maybe they will read these minutes. Other comments? Marge?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I have nothing to add.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Anybody else?

MR. MALLAMO:

Steve, if I could just say a few things. I mean, I had complete faith in the institution and what we had to show here. This was a first time experience for me. If I was unsure about anything, it was some of the concepts that I had espoused from the museum. When I first came, if you remember, one of the first things I had to deal with when I first came here was a reinterpretation of the Memorial Wing. I fought for the concept of a museum of a museum. That was kind of a hard nut for people to get their hands around at the time because museums are continually upgrading. I was trying to make the case that the museum exhibit is almost as important or even more so than the objects within it in our case, and also the concept that museum education can also be fun and entertaining. Very frankly, there were a lot of museum directors that don't share those concepts. Florence and I see them in AAM meetings all the time. We went to one meeting where there was a lecture on the experience economy and he espoused that if museums are going to survive in the 21st Century, they're going to have to fight the same economy as the interactive store where you row in the sporting goods store, that you have to interact and make your product entertaining. I believed in that. I think we have tried to do that. I think that was my concern, that the committee that came might not share that vision, but I think clearly they did. They saw what we're trying to do here. In many ways it's new and innovative, particularly when you're taking something that's been around 70 years and keeping it the same. That's an innovative

concept, but I think it is a winner. We have tried to develop the Living History Program so that the facility doesn't change. The activity within it is what changes and makes it fresh. I'm so thrilled that they validated those concepts and the whole governance structure that we have had and leadership strategy that we have proposed here. I think there are some museums in the country that would go in a different direction, and we didn't. We put our money where our mouth is, and I think that they supported that tooth and nail. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Any other comments? For me, that was the best Education and Exhibits Report that we could possibly have for a lot of reasons. Thank you both. We will move on to the Finance Committee.

MR. SEIDES:

The Finance Committee met this past Monday around 10 o'clock here at the Vanderbilt at Normandy Manor. Carl Luecke, Deborah Gray, Michael Iadevaia, our CPA, Barbara Oster, our bookkeeper, Lance, our Director, and myself were in attendance. These meetings are open. Any of us can attend, please.

We have in our folders the Treasurer's Report. It has been reviewed, and I would like you to take a few minutes to look at it. If you have any comments, please bring them forward. If you have any thoughts over this report that you would like to bring to our committee meeting, please feel comfortable to do that.

At this time I'm also going to pass around a check history report, which we all requested and which is now provided to myself to pass around here at the board meeting for your review. I would like it back, please.

Our committee also is looking into all open invoices so that we can get a hold on the funds that are outstanding so that we can work in conjunction with the Development Committee to close some of that gap.

One other issue came up, that we ask Carl Luecke to review our current insurance policies and look into some other policies and what they offer for full time employees' benefits when they leave the museum.

That is the end of my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions?

DR. PECORALE:

These are the actuals through February. We don't know the actuals for March yet?

MR. SEIDES:

That's correct.

DR. PECORALE:

If I understand this correctly, we had a \$40,417 deficiency in January, and we were up \$16,587. So this is a restatement of the one that we got at the last meeting for February.

MR. SEIDES:

Yes.

DR. PECORALE:

That means that for the year thus far our excess is \$23,830 because it doesn't show the year-to-date, which we used to get. So if you take \$40,417 and subtract \$16,587, the year-to-date expenses over revenue is \$23,830, correct?

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's the way I would read it.

MR. SEIDES:

Yes.

DR. PECORALE:

If it's possible, can we have a year-to-date as we run?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, we can do that.

MR. SEIDES:

Sure.

DR. PECORALE:

We used to do that. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any other questions or comments? Personnel Committee, Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

The Personnel Committee met at five o'clock prior to the board meeting. Lance, Barbara and Bridget from the staff were present. In addition, Carl, Gretchen, myself and Marjorie were there. We reviewed the status of the staff performance evaluations. One of the things you will notice in the survey that was done as it relates to the museum was that they made some comments about the employee evaluations and the confusion that seemed to have been in the past. The Personnel Committee had picked this up way before the Reaccreditation Committee came. We developed with the staff evaluation a tool which they are implementing for the first time for a full year. I understand from both Lance and Bridget that it was very successful. It has become a good tool for the supervisors and the staff to begin to identify issues with the personnel. Everyone was very comfortable with it. We will continue to use it. It was very good to hear that it was a successful tool this year, and that the managers are using it to help them identify issues with staff.

The second thing was that we discussed the employee benefit issues. Some of the health insurance items were referred to the Finance Committee. Carl agreed to review those. We are interested in a number of issues. One of the issues that came up at the Personnel Committee today was that there are benefits that are afforded to County employees that may be eligible for museum employees. So that's one of the questions we're having the staff ask as we begin to do this benefit evaluation and if there are benefits that the employees here at the museum could make available to themselves upon their retirement from the museum. That will be something that we will bring back to the board when we have more information.

We also got an update from Lance and Bridget on the hand scanner time clock that is a replacement of our time clock that has become obsolete. Like all new electronic things, it had its bumps with the employees, but it seems to be working well now. It's very successful in taking away all of the manual efforts that the people in Finance had to do in making it more efficient

because now it's all computerized.

The last thing is that we discussed the fact again in the museum report that we were not doing the security screening of all the employees, criminal background checks and the like. We are discussing how we're going to implement that going forward, developing some criteria, and a process for it, and what mechanism Lance and Bridget will use because we're trying to reduce the exposure in terms of expense for the museum.

The last thing is we have a revision to the manual, Lance. Because we implemented the hand scanner time clock, we need to put in an addendum to the Personnel Manual that basically indicates that we're using this, that it's an image of your hand to collect the time, that it will create the electronic time sheets, and that it will be used for disciplinary action against tardiness. It will also be used, obviously, for payroll. It's being passed around. The Personnel Committee is recommending that we approve this to be added to the Personnel Manual, since we have already implemented the hand scanner and worked out all of the issues.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'll take that in the form of a motion. I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It carries unanimously. (Vote: 12/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. D'Orazio & Mr. Olivieri. One vacant position.)**

MS. GRAY:

That completes the report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you for that report. Director's Report. No wait, first Public Relations' Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, Todd had called to say that he was held up in traffic. I know he was in Manhattan today. I tried to get him back on the phone, and I was unable to,

but I can fill in two of the things that Todd has been working on. One was the Alva project. Todd was relentlessly pursuing the Sewanhka Corinthian Club where Willie Vanderbilt was a commodore, in working with us on the Alva project. Steve, Todd and I met them for lunch a couple of weeks ago here in Huntington.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Dinner.

MR. MALLAMO:

We walked into the meeting, and they didn't look too enthused to see us, but by the time we left, they were very enthusiastic and wanted to become involved. They want to have an event here for their members. We may do an education program for their members' children. They are looking forward to building a relationship with us. We have been invited to go to the Sewanhka Corinthian Club. They will be coming to see our archives, and we can go over and see their archives. We are very excited about that prospect.

Todd also was working on another project that he and I had about for some time. It's something I've wanted to do for some time but just haven't had the time to do it. And that was to form an association of Vanderbilt Museums around the country. He has contacted the Museum Directors or Administrators of the Biltmore Estate in Ashville, the Preservation Society up in Newport, the Administrators of the Vanderbilt houses up there as well as Shelburne Farms in Vermont. He has not contacted Hyde Park, but we're going to do that and discuss this with them. It was agreed – I'm glad he talked to me about that because I was planning a vacation one week in August, and he has already set up a conference here at the museum August 22, at which time these people will be attending. So they will be coming from North Carolina.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It would be good if you were here.

MR. MALLAMO:

It would be very nice if I was here, wouldn't it? The Director of Biltmore didn't realize that the Alva had sunk off North Carolina. Apparently his background is in maritime museums. So he was very excited to hear about that. Maybe we now have some eyes and ears down in North Carolina. This

was great news, that those contacts were made. I think we will see some great things coming out of that, as well.

Todd has identified a new staff member that will be working with us instead of Leslie Tannen, who is out on leave for the time being, Pam Cordes. Pam met with the staff last week. She is very, very aggressive, very gung-ho. I think I have had more e-mails from Pam in the past week than anybody else. She seems to be right on top of promoting our events and happily promoting them well in advance. She is already working on what's going on in July now. I expect we will see good publicity on the different activities that we're doing coming up. I think that's my report for public relations.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I guess it might be appropriate and it might be nicer if Todd was here, but again I'll read from the AAM report. This is in a section under marketing and public relations, page seven. "The museum has retained a private public relations firm that is committed to the museum and its goals. The principal of the firm is a devoted friend of the museum who gives not only well beyond the boundaries of the contract but also financially. The consultants are good at loading staff time during special events and programs and excels at publicizing special events. The firm routinely takes a leadership role with the blessing of the museum staff in both print and non-print media to publicize the exhibits, public programs and special events. The synergism is obvious. This is one instance where outsourcing has proven to be the most efficient approach." I wish Todd was here to hear this, but I had to read it into the minutes. Any comments about that report? Lance, the Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

I am pleased to report that I had a meeting with the Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tom Williams, and Chris Smith, the Director of the Marine Science Program, and Matt Sclafani, who heads the Vanderbilt Marine Science Research Center here at the museum last week. We're working on several new projects to undertake together, as well as some new programs that Cornell wants to sponsor here at the museum. We will be hearing more about that in the near future.

We have several new capital projects about to begin. On Friday, they will have the kick-off meeting for the phase two of the walkways, the brick walkways. We are surfacing the stairway treads with granite in places where the concrete is damaged. It's a project we have been waiting for for some

time, so we're very anxious to see this proceed.

We're also about to see an award for the façade restoration project. I understand that that final selection is in the process right now.

After the kick-off meeting on Friday, DPW will be coming to give me a status update of all of the capital projects that we have. This has been an item that has come up several times in Executive Committee that certain projects seem to be dragging on. I had them in two weeks ago, and we're keeping the pressure on. They will be back again on Friday to give us a progress update.

We're also working on a project that Gretchen mentioned to expand internet access on the property. Through the development of new technology, we believe that we will be able to provide wireless access across the property reaching from Normandy Manor to the boathouse where Cornell has their building. We have a consultant working on this. We have tried out some experiments to do it. The router that we have used is working but because of the geography here, although it says it will go a mile, but at the Vanderbilt a mile is about 100 feet because of the hills and dales. We're going to be relocating that router to the attic of the powerhouse. We believe that we will be able to achieve coverage across the property. Hopefully that will be done within the next couple of weeks and will provide the access for the survey computers that are going to be here in the lobby. That's something that we are working on as well.

On May 1, I'll be going out to Indianapolis to the American Association of Museums' annual meeting. I have selected many of the topics that I want to attend, some of which have to do with board enhancement and programs. I am looking forward to that conference, particularly in light of our reaccreditation. I think we'll be strutting our stuff out in Indianapolis. We will be thrilled to be there. That's my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, any questions or comments?

DR. PECORALE:

Yes, just a question. The router that you're putting in, it's a wireless router?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, it's a new system called Parker Vision.

DR. PECORALE:

Is there any future plans to tie our telephone system into that? You could probably cut your cost by at least 30 to 40 percent.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's definitely something we'd look into. Our hands are tied a little bit because we're part of the County phone system. We are not part of the County internet system. I'm told that's probably a good thing from my friends in the County because it seems to have a lot of down time, but it's certainly something we will look into. I know I have done that with my personal phone. Of course, I haven't disconnected my original ones, and now I'm paying two phone bills, but the one does have unlimited long distance so that would certainly help. We'll look into that, Tony, to see if there is a way we can do that.

DR. PECORALE:

The other question I had, and it really isn't a question, is that I want to thank you for putting together that material for the Vanderbilt School. I did meet with the principal, and he said that they have teachers and staff that would be interested in working with us on the project, to make everyone aware of the donation of the Alva, and that if they can assist in any manner, they would be very willing to work with you and staff on it.

MR. MALLAMO:

I will have the proposal very shortly. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions or comments? Briefly, I'm just going to bring you up to speed on appropriations in the Legislature. The County Executive has released his budget. Most of it was okay. One area is problematic. The waterfront money, whereas in 2005 – well, it's approximately \$1.4 million in three packages, about \$500,000 per year. In 2005 the \$500,000 was retained so we still are funded for this year, but the funds for 2006 and 2007 were delayed to 2008 and 2009. I spoke to Steve Levy about that and a number of Legislators. I'm trying to see if I can get that changed. This would be a time to speak to a Legislator to bring to their attention that our long-range plan depends on that waterfront coming into place. Delaying the funding doesn't make sense if you don't want us to be overly dependent on our endowment but more than that, it doesn't make sense to break up the

funding. If you're starting a project in 2005, spending the first half of million, why wait a year for the next half of million? We really need to finish it. We would be fully funded for the waterfront project if that million dollars, the remaining million dollars, which is supposed to come in 2006 and 2007, was moved up one year. It's a critical appropriation, and we have to move on it. Any questions? Yes, Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

Do we have a business plan that shows that by doing that, we actually can generate money that helps us in terms of the endowment? I would imagine when you're trying to explain this to one of the Legislators, you have to have some substance behind just asking for the money. Have we ever done that?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We should do that. I think that we should put together a business plan that lays out the kinds of revenues we would expect from opening the waterfront.

MS. GRAY:

Or just some talking points to help us make a case for why –

MR. MALLAMO:

I think we mentioned it in the 2004-08 long-range plan that was prepared. I'll check on that, and I'm sure we can use that as a kick-off point.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think that the way I have done it – they have all been spoken to repeatedly, especially the Legislators that have been present for a long period of time. Basically, the concept is simple. It would be hard to believe that opening up the waterfront wouldn't bring additional traffic. Given everything you have heard tonight, giving us the space inside of the seaplane hangar, that would open us up for events and education programs, giving us the use of the boardwalk and giving us access to a waterfront, which would expand the institution dramatically. It's now been supported by the AAM, and you're right. It would be better if I gave you formal talking points. I guess I'm just used to doing it, so I get up there, I pitch to them, I talk to them, and they understand. I got a commitment from a number of them that they would change it. I have an appointment to meet with the County Executive's Office to perhaps go over with them our rationale again and to find out from them what their rationale was. I'm sure they have a reason. They have committed to me that they will meet with me shortly. But the meeting is on the 17th, so

it's time to do your lobbying.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think there is a point in the AAM's report that addresses this. It was right on target.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It addresses it right on point. Yes, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

I apologize for being late and if this was already discussed, somebody can tell me later. Is the dinosaur exhibit back on-line so people can visit it?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. PECORALE:

So that's open now.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, it is open.

DR. PECORALE:

Okay, and what's the long-range schedule for the dioramas?

MR. MALLAMO:

We have an extension until the end of 2006 currently. We have the capability to request another extension, but we're trying to hold to that date.

DR. PECORALE:

And we have started nothing down there yet?

MR. MALLAMO:

At the dioramas?

DR. PECORALE:

Right.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, we have had the conservators in to look at the dioramas and the whaleshark. We have cleaned the room up. DPW has been down to do an initial walkthrough for planning purposes. We'll discuss that more fully on Friday when they're here.

DR. PECORALE:

Anything more on the whaleshark that you can tell us about?

MR. MALLAMO:

What I can tell you is that it can be restored insitu. It will be kept right there. The damage, though severe, was not beyond the capabilities of the consultant. He said he had seen worse. We had a few setbacks because of asbestos samples that we had done, so we have to deal with that issue, but we can address that as well. There was a time we thought we were going to have to cut it into sections and remove it from the building, and that's not going to occur. It would be much more cost effective to do it right in that room.

DR. PECORALE:

Anything more on the floor?

MR. MALLAMO:

The floor in –

DR. PECORALE:

Down in the dioramas.

MR. MALLAMO:

The glass floor?

DR. PECORALE:

Right.

MR. MALLAMO:

I'm not sure what you're referring to.

DR. PECORALE:

Wasn't there a question about the restoration and repair and putting that back in shape?

MR. MALLAMO:

I think you're talking about the lighting issue.

DR. PECORALE:

Right.

MR. MALLAMO:

The electric has been brought to the area, and now the lighting project, that will be within the scope of the County capital project, all the lighting, not just for the floor but the exhibit as well. Bill, was the floor re-lit? Actually, I think it might have been.

MR. DIECK:

Yes.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, so the floor has been done.

MR. DIECK:

The floor was re-lit, but the dioramas have not.

MR. MALLAMO:

The dioramas have not but the floor is lit and working.

DR. PECORALE:

I don't know how many people have ever seen it, but it's quite a setting and quite beautiful when it was operating and fully set up. The last I remember, there was some sort of a problem about the lighting.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, the problem is the lighting within the dioramas themselves, so that will all be done as part of that project.

DR. PECORALE:

And that is scheduled for 2005-2006?

MR. MALLAMO:

Right. The question at this time in DPW's mind is there may be structural failure within the ceiling area that needs massive work. I have had an

architect look at that, an architect engineer look at it, Douglas Wilke, who has done other work for us here at the museum. He didn't take the ceiling down. He punched holes in it and looked at it. He feels that it is secure and that there will not be a problem.

DR. PECORALE:

That's great.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We're going to see it.

DR. PECORALE:

Excuse me?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We're going to see it some day.

DR. PECORALE:

I know.

MR. SEIDES:

Do we have a projected "someday?"

DR. GITTELMAN:

Two years.

DR. PECORALE:

If you have never seen the set-up down there in the dioramas and everything, I can only tell you that it was the highlight of sixth graders when they took the trip here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Sure, we really saved one of the best for last.

MR. MALLAMO:

Mike, when you went on the tour with me, did I take you down there?

MR. DELUISE:

Yes.

MR. MALLAMO:

Marie and I are going to make arrangements tonight, she'll take my three-hour tour, so that everybody is seeing it. If a Trustee hasn't seen it, please let me know, come up, and we will take you down there.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You're going to be shocked. It's improved dramatically since – I have been down there a number of times, and it really looks a lot better.

DR. PECORALE:

I don't think I've been down there in three or four years. The first time I was there it was a disaster.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You're going to like it. It's worth the trip. Carl, you, too.

MR. LUECKE:

I haven't been there for a couple of years.

MR. MALLAMO:

When you go down, Tony, you're going to say, "Well, this isn't so bad."

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's right. It really doesn't look so bad. Okay, that was the end of my report. Old business? New business? We haven't established a need for an executive session, but I demand a need for some champagne. I have a motion to adjourn.

DR. PECORALE:

Yes, motion.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 12/0/0/3 Absent: Mr. D'Orazio & Mr. Olivieri. One vacant position.)**

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.)

SG:ap
attachments